



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - January 29, 2002**

- ***In the West***, cool weather continues to slow winter grain development in ***California***. Meanwhile, beneficial precipitation is developing across parts of the ***Southwest***, boosting soil moisture reserves and high-elevation snow packs.
- ***On the Plains***, light precipitation is beginning to develop from ***Kansas southward into northern Texas***, providing much-needed moisture for drought-stressed winter wheat. Meanwhile, bitterly cold weather and a minimal snow cover persists across ***Montana's winter wheat areas***, where this morning's temperatures were as low as -20 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, light precipitation, mostly snow flurries and freezing rain, is beginning to cause travel disruptions and increase stress on livestock, following recent record warmth.
- ***In the South***, very warm, dry weather prevails, allowing water to drain from flooded winter wheat fields in the ***lower Mississippi Valley***, but aiding pasture and small grain growth in the ***southern Atlantic region***.

**Outlook:** For the next several days, a major snow and ice storm is forecast to affect areas from the ***central and southern Plains into the Midwest and Northeast***. Although cold, icy conditions will disrupt travel and increase livestock stress, winter wheat will benefit from soil moisture improvements. Farther west, sub-freezing temperatures are forecast to return to ***California's San Joaquin Valley*** through mid-week. In contrast, warm, dry weather will prevail across the ***Southeast*** until Friday, when cooler air and scattered showers are expected. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 3-7 calls for cool weather to linger in ***California*** and the ***East***, while mild weather is forecast to return to the ***Plains***. Abundant precipitation is expected across the ***Northwest*** and the ***South***, including ***Texas***, but near- to below-normal precipitation is forecast across the remainder of the U.S.

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